which has been declared as a Restricted Area under Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, continues as such.

(c) and (b) In view of its tourist potential Foreign tourists in groups sponsored by the recognised Indian travel agencies are permitted to visit Shillong in Meghalaya subject to certain conditions prescribed in this regard.

Announcement of a New Newsprint Policy

1650. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when the newsprint policy was announced last;

(b) since when the announcement of a new newsprint policy has become due;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in announcing the policy; and

(d) by when it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) Newsprint Allocation Policy was earlier announced on annual basis and the policy for the year 1984-85 was announced on 21st July, 1984. The Policy for 1985-86 could not be announced as entire gamut of distribution of newsprint with a view to removing certain lacunae engaged the attention of the Government. The matter has since been finalised and the Policy applicable for the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 was announced in the Lok Sabha on 13-11-1986 and in Rajya Sabha on 17-11-1986.

Collaboration with Natherlands in the sale and manufacture of telecommunications equipment

1651. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Netherlands Government has offered to cooperate in the sale and the licenced production of equipment with co-operation in common research activities, exchange of technologies and shared training facilities so far to enable India to achieve greater self-reliance in telecommunications;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what is the present state of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) In the Third Meeting of the Indo-Netherlands Joint Commission in April, 1986, held in Delhi, it was agreed by both sides that excellent scope exists between the two countries to increase cooperation in the field of Telecommunications. Netherlands side has offered technical cooperation and assistance in the areas of Network Development and Planning, Rural Telecom Development and Research & Development.

(b) and (c) These proposals are under the consideration of Government.

Indian request for co-operation in nuclear safety

1652. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has reiterated that the nuclear plants around the world are not safe and has urged for greater cooperation, especially between developing and developed nations on unclear safety, as reported in the Indian Express of 13th October, 1986; and

(b) if so, what further steps Government of India proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, India continues to actively participate in international meetings on nuclear safety and in this regard we support greater cooperation among all nations concerned.

Restructuring of second channel of Doordarshan

1653. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that second chennel of Doordarshan has flopped in the absence of good and popular programmes;

(b) whether Government have any plans of restructuring the second channel to make it more popular; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to review the quality of its programmes. As a part of this exercise the programmes telecast on the second channel are constanty reviewed on the basis of continuous professional assessment as well as feed back from viewers. Changes in the contents, format of the programmes are made whenever considered necessary, so as to sustain viewers' interest.

Delay of NTPC Projects

1654. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) projects are being delayed owing to lack of environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Out of the 8 Thermal Power Projects referred by NTPC so far, only three projects are awaiting approval due to non-submission of information sought from NTPC.

Setting up of Community T.V. sets

1655. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether community television sets are proposed to be installed by Government in 4000 villages in six States in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the names of those State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) A scheme for Community T. V. was approved during the VI Plan period.

(b) The names of the concerned States are Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Publication of Urdu Dailies and Weeklies in Delhi

1656. SHRI SHAMIM AHMED SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Urdu dailies and weeklies, etc. published from Delhi; and

(b) what are the details of advertisements being given to them, paperwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The number of Urdu newspapers of varying periodicity published from Delhi as on 31-12-1985 was 243.